

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 were pending in the application.

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 are rejected.

Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 are objected to.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 have been amended. No new matter is added by way of this amendment.

Claim 2 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 11 and 12 have been added. No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-9 and 11-12 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication in the Office Action dated May 2, 2007 that claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 3 and 8 into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2.

Applicant has amended claim 4 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2.

Applicant has amended claim 6 to incorporate the limitations of claim 7.

Applicant has amended claim 9 to incorporate the limitations of claim 7.

Applicant has added claim 11 to incorporate the subject matter of independent claim 4 and the limitations of claim 3.

Applicant has added claim 12 to incorporate the subject matter of independent claim 9 to incorporate the limitations of claim 8.

Since claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 are allowable in independent forms, amended claims 1, 4, 6, 9 and new claims 11-12 should also be allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,189,098 to Kaliski. The Examiner states that Kaliski discloses all features of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The rejection is moot in view of the amended claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

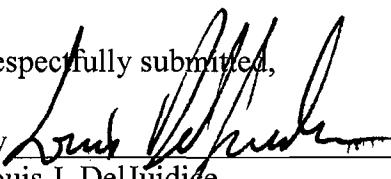
Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated May 2, 2007 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-9 and 11-12 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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